1988-89 Rs. 144.00 lakhs.
1989-90 Rs. 25 lakhs.
1990-91 Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

(b) There is no scheme for providing special assistance for setting up Information Centres in the States including Rajasthan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Central Government do not provide assistance to the States for opening Information Centres of the State either at district level or at State level.

[*English*]

Selection of News Readers and Announcers

5185. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for selection of Newsreaders and announcers in the Doordarshan; and

(b) the number of applications pending for selection and approved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The criteria is proficiency and knowledge of language good pronunciation and diction, clarity of voice, cameragenic/telegenic features etc. The minimum educational qualification is graduate and the preferrred age group is between 20-35 years.

(b) According to Doordarshan 1380 applications are pending During 1991-92 eight candidates were selected.

[*Translation*]

Steel Prices

5186. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 5,1991 regarding steel prices;

(b) if so, whether the price of Indian Steel in the International market is more than the prices of other countries and if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the percentage of the taxes imposed by the Government on the price of the steel sold in the Indian market and its comparative figure in Japan, Germany, China and USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Domestic and export prices of different categories of steel in India are not comparable with export and domestic prices in other steel producing countries.

(c) The levies and excise duty on steel produced by the integrated steel plants in India constitute 14% to 13% of the Ex-works prices of different items of steel. Similar information for Japan, Germany, China and U S.A is not available.

[*English*]

Alternative Sources of Energy

5187. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been advised to develop alternative spources of energy;

(b) whether the Governments propose to vigorously pursue development of wind energy in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government will also